

HOUSE.....

.....No. 14.

DOCUMENTS

RELATING TO

THE STATE REFORM SCHOOL.



JANUARY, 1851.



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Trustees of the State Reform School respectfully present to the Governor and Council, their **FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT** of the concerns of that institution, for the year ending November 30th, 1850.

The reports of the Superintendent and other officers of the school, which accompany and make part of this report, are so full and satisfactory in their details, and exhibit so completely the present condition of the institution and its history for the past year, that we may refer to them, without unnecessary repetition on our part, for the ample information which they are adapted to convey.

Upon the resignation of the Rev. Mr. Stone, in January last, who officiated in the double capacity of Teacher and Chaplain, some change in the organization of these departments was deemed expedient. The teachers were placed under the more immediate direction of the Superintendent, and the Chaplain was released from the ordinary duties and responsibilities of a teacher in the school-room. Experience has, thus far, proved this alteration to be a salutary one. The present Chaplain has found employment for his whole time in the discharge of the appropriate duties of his station, and we would refer to his report, as containing ample evidence of the faithful and devoted manner in which those duties have been discharged.

It was also believed by the Trustees, that to relieve the Principal from some of the arduous duties of his position, and to secure the proper management of the affairs of the institution, the appointment of an Assistant Superintendent had become necessary. Accordingly, in March last, Orville K. Hutchinson, who had been for some time successfully employed as an assistant teacher, was appointed to that station, the duties of which, he has since performed in a manner which has met the acceptance and entire approbation of this Board.

In connection with the successful cultivation of the farm, it is the wish and intention of the Trustees to promote a system of gradual improvement, ornamental as well as economical, which shall make the appearance of the establishment attractive and inviting to the stranger who may visit it, and creditable to the Commonwealth that has founded it. This may be accomplished mainly by the labor of the boys, for we entirely concur with the Superintendent in the opinion that sufficient experience has already proved, that it is practicable and safe to employ a large portion of the more trustworthy among them, in the ordinary daily operations of the farm and garden, as well as in the embellishment and improvement of the grounds.

We received last Summer, from the trustees of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, a valuable present of a pair of cattle of the North Devon breed, which are now in our possession, and for which our acknowledgments, on behalf of the Commonwealth, were duly made to that Board.

In the enumeration of the products of the farm for the past season, it should be stated, that the fields planted with potatoes would, in an average season, have yielded a crop of about fifteen hundred bushels; but that, in consequence of the potato blight which prevailed so extensively in this section of the country, scarcely more than one fourth of that quantity was obtained.

The services of Mr. Leach, the Steward and Farmer, continues to merit our commendation. We are much indebted to him for the improved condition and appearance which the farm already exhibits under his careful management and direction.

By the Treasurer's report it will appear that the whole amount of expenditure during the year has been \$31,819 58, and that there is a balance due to him in account, of \$4793 38. To explain this deficiency, it should be observed that there are, at the time of making this report, three hundred and twenty-four boys in the school; and that through the whole year the number, though varying, has always exceeded three hundred, upon which number the estimates of last year were made. The cost of beds, bedding and clothing for these has exceeded the estimate by \$500. The cost of introducing a sufficient supply of water to the building, an arrangement of indispensable necessity in our opinion, considerably exceeded the anticipa-

tions of our last report, which was based upon the estimates of the engineer. The water has also been introduced to the barn for the supply of the stock, the expense of which was not included in these estimates. These extra expenses and the cost of finishing the farm house will account for about three thousand dollars of the deficiency. The damage by fire last summer, while it showed the incalculable value of this supply of water by which it was restricted to comparatively narrow limits, still required some hundred dollars for repairs. These items will leave but a very small excess in the current incidental expenses beyond our estimate, to make up the balance due the Treasurer in his account.

For the support of the institution for the ensuing year, the Trustees propose to ask an appropriation of \$22,500, viz:

For provisions and clothing for three hundred				
and twenty-five boys, - - - -	\$10,800	00		
For salary, wages and support of officers, -	7,000	00		
For fuel, lights and current expenses, - -	4,525	00		
For workshop, farming tools and improve-				
ments on farm, - - - -	2,700	00		
For balance due the Treasurer, - - - -	4,793	38		
				<hr/>
				\$29,818 38
Deduct for income of the Lyman fund, to				
be applied to some of these purposes, \$3,500	00			
And for estimated proceeds of the labor				
of the boys, - - - -	3,818	38		
			<hr/>	7,318 38
				<hr/>
				\$22,500 00

We cannot refrain from the renewed expression of our sense of the obligation we are under to the Superintendent, for the skill and fidelity with which he has continued to discharge the arduous and responsible duties of his station during the past year. If success has attended our efforts, and we think in some good degree it has, we are greatly indebted for it, under Providence, to his untiring and judicious exertions. To the officers of the institution, generally, not forgetting, in an especial manner, the worthy matron and the other heads of the female departments, our thanks are due for their faithfulness and

diligence in discharging the various trusts reposed in them, and for the harmony and good feeling which have prevailed, almost without exception, through every department of the institution.

Before closing this report, permit us to call the attention of the government to some of the letters from the boys who have been apprenticed, which form the Appendix to the report of the Superintendent. They are to us full of encouragement and promise. When we contrast their present condition with that of some of these boys before they were brought to the Reform School, twenty-five of them having been arrested for offences five times or more before they came to the school, and one of them not less than thirty times, may we not feel authorized to say, that, in the mere economical view of the subject, the Commonwealth is the gainer, from the altered and improved condition of these boys? What, then, must be our consolation, when we regard them in their higher and truer position, as immortal and accountable beings, restored to the paths of virtue from the way that was leading them down to destruction.

Respectfully submitted,

OTIS ADAMS,
GEORGE DENNY,
WILLIAM T. ANDREWS,
WILLIAM LIVINGSTON,
RUSSELL A. GIBBS,
SAMUEL WILLISTON,
THOMAS A. GREENE.

WESTBOROUGH, *December 7th*, 1850.

T R E A S U R E R ' S R E P O R T .

To His Excellency the Governor, and the Honorable Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts :

The Treasurer of the State Reform School respectfully presents his **FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT.**

The Treasurer charges himself from December 1, 1849, to November 30th, 1850, inclusive, as follows :

For amounts received from the State treasury, .	\$22,600 00
For amounts received from W. R. Lincoln, Superintendent, being the amounts received for work, &c.,	3,426 20
For amount received from Lyman Fund, .	1,000 00
Balance carried to new account,	4,793 38
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	\$31,819 58
	<hr style="border-top: 3px double black;"/>

He credits himself with balance, November 3, 1849, \$2,558 83

And for the following payments :

Medical attendance and medicine,	218 56
Tools, leather and materials for shoe shop,	797 69
Buildings, improvements and repairs,	5,535 27
Salaries, wages and labor,	6,380 04
Farming tools, stock and improvements on farm,	1,900 65
Fuel and lights,	1,087 24
Provisions and groceries,	7,198 16
Books, stationery and printing,	228 38
Furniture and Bedding,	1,274 33
Clothing, &c.,	3,530 70
Trustees' expenses,	281 82

Transportation and railroad freight,	458 91
Postage,	40 12
Miscellaneous,	328 88
	<hr/>
	\$31,819 58
	<hr/>

Tools, Leather and Materials for Shoe Shop, include

Leather, 12,427 $\frac{1}{4}$ feet,	172 23
Do. 1,552 $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds,	238 31
Binding and lining,	11 92
Damage on boots and shoes,	12 11
Pegs, tacks, blacking and wax,	36 02
Freight on shoes sold,	20 01
Travelling expenses,	4 20
Thread, 464 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds,	188 15
Tools,	114 74
	<hr/>
	\$797 69

Buildings, Improvements and Repairs, include

Labor and materials for finishing farm house,	\$1,059 01
Labor and materials on general repairs,	761 41
Iron work,	97 69
Fitting up apothecary room,	18 10
Finishing drying-room in laundry,	177 65
Paints, oil, &c.,	98 37
Enlarging piggery,	171 37
Conveying water from pond to house,	2,585 47
Balance and repairs on steam apparatus,	279 08
Cooking range, &c.,	181 92
School desks,	45 00
Carpenter's and blacksmith's tools,	25 67
Locks, keys, door-handles, &c.,	34 53
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	\$5,535 27

Books, Stationery and Printing, include

The printing of 300 copies of by-laws, . . .	\$31 00
School books,	130 90
Blanks,	7 24
Slates,	10 31
Writing books, paper, pens, pencils, &c., . . .	48 93
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	\$228 38

Furniture and Bedding include

Ticking, 585 yards,	\$64 55
Sheeting, 2,477 yards,	241 80
Diaper, table linen and crash, 312 yards, . . .	71 66
Prints and batting,	25 09
Curled hair, 123 pounds,	31 81
Bedsteads, bureaus, chairs and mattresses, . . .	93 48
Cot bedsteads,	26 25
Window shades, 22,	11 17
Baskets, pails, tubs and other wooden ware, . . .	54 27
Knives, forks and spoons,	24 80
Bells, 2,	1 00
Crockery, glass and earthen ware,	123 43
Barrels,	2 25
Tin and iron ware,	89 94
Stoves and funnels,	28 52
Thread, 55 pounds,	29 84
Brooms and brushes,	84 30
Lanterns and lamps, &c.,	94 87
Wringing press,	125 00
Straw for beds, 2,520 pounds,	7 62
Wire cloth, sacking, &c.,	13 43
Clocks,	29 25
	<hr/>
	\$1,274 33

Clothing includes

Satinets, 2,192 yards,	\$921 06
Denims, 1,649 yards,	236 78
Cotton cloth, 4,408 yards,	361 73
Brown linen, 81 yards,	17 01
Jackets, 799,	904 41
Linen sacks, 299,	203 03
Cloth for caps, 121½ yards,	91 12
Palm-leaf hats, binding, &c.,	84 94
Thread, 110 pounds,	118 44
Scissors,	11 55
Knit webbing, 58¾ yards,	34 85
Vesting, 104½ yards,	15 57
Frocking, 75 yards,	31 98
Needles, pins and thimbles,	20 29
Buttons, 339 gross,	58 76
Yarn, 101½ pounds,	77 04
Socks, 45 dozen,	148 50
Shoes, 50 pairs,	35 00
Boots, 65 pairs,	108 92
Handkerchiefs,	22 22
Suspenders, 4 dozen,	3 40
Combs, 142 dozen,	10 46
Ribbon, tapes, braid, wax, &c.,	13 64
	<hr/>
	\$3,530 7

Provisions and Groceries include

Flour, 645 barrels,	\$3,776 78
Rye meal, 159 bushels,	129 65
Indian meal, 288 bushels,	229 75
Buckwheat, 50 pounds,	1 63
Beef, 14,352 pounds,	636 46
Pork, 1,074 pounds,	60 89
Mutton, 974 pounds,	41 69
Veal, 698½ pounds,	52 03
Tripe and sausages, 105 pounds,	9 31
Poultry, 65½ pounds,	8 16

Fish, 5,998 pounds,	.	.	.	.	\$142 59
Mackerel, 2 barrels; herring, 10 boxes,	.	.	.	.	28 50
Salt, 78½ bushels,	.	.	.	.	32 46
Potatoes, 309 bushels,	.	.	.	.	124 14
Beans, 63½ bushels,	.	.	.	.	86 58
Rice, 5,497 pounds,	.	.	.	.	203 92
Sugar, 2,306 pounds,	.	.	.	.	172 40
Coffee, 267 pounds,	.	.	.	.	36 84
Tea, 84 pounds,	.	.	.	.	35 38
Chocolate, 825 pounds, \$103 12; broma, 26					
pounds, \$3 12,	.	.	.	.	106 24
Molasses, 3,455½ gallons,	.	.	.	.	522 15
Butter, 1,018 pounds,	.	.	.	.	214 01
Cheese, 189 pounds,	.	.	.	.	15 12
Lard, 1,182 pounds,	.	.	.	.	87 65
Soap, 2,510½ pounds,	.	.	.	.	122 91
Potash, 902 pounds,	.	.	.	.	60 88
Starch, 37 pounds,	.	.	.	.	2 96
Tapioca, 210 pounds,	.	.	.	.	17 88
Crackers,	.	.	.	.	21 80
Eggs, 23 dozen,	.	.	.	.	3 25
Hops, 29½ pounds,	.	.	.	.	4 92
Dried apples, fruit, &c.,	.	.	.	.	63 34
Saleratus, 1,241 pounds,	.	.	.	.	69 42
Cream tartar, 82 pounds,	.	.	.	.	17 76
Ginger, pepper and other small spices,	.	.	.	.	36 88
Vinegar, 114½ gallons,	.	.	.	.	11 45
Barrels, 9,	.	.	.	.	3 20
Miscellaneous,	.	.	.	.	7 18
					<hr/>
					\$7,198 16

Farming Tools, Stock, and Improvements on the Farm, include

Two-horse sled, 1; ox-sled, 1; roller, 1; cart, 1;	
cart body, 1; handcart, 1; hay cutter, 1;	
wheelbarrows, 5; hand plows, 3; ox plow, 1;	
harrow, 1; scythes and snaths, 2 each; shovels,	
60; hoes, 38; spades, 6; manure forks, 6; hay	
forks, 6; picks, 3; yokes, 3; chains, 2; rakes,	
42; plow points, &c.,	295 50

Fan mill, 1,	\$14 00
Horse, 1,	100 00
Cows, 2,	90 00
Swine, 5,	33 33
Fruit trees, 152,	27 05
Grain, 224 bushels,	153 48
Shorts and oil meal, 3½ tons,	74 24
Grass and garden seeds, &c.,	77 65
Strawberry and raspberry plants, grape vines, &c.,	24 50
Hay and straw,	171 98
Rye for seed, 11 bushels,	11 00
Pasturing young cattle,	7 32
Salt, 48 bushels,	13 20
Plaster, 9,900 pounds,	31 00
Guano, 4,992 pounds,	138 99
Labor laying wall, blasting rocks, and butch- ering,	310 67
Blacksmith work,	98 95
Churn, pails, tubs, pans, &c.,	12 80
Strawberry boxes, 150,	8 23
Bags,	12 95
Repairing carts, wagons and tools,	22 75
Whips, repairing harnesses, &c.,	13 19
Conveying water from hill to barn,	83 33
Potatoes to plant, 89 bushels,	35 85
Sawing lumber at mill,	24 90
Miscellaneous,	13 79
	<hr/>
	\$1,900 65

Fuel and Lights include

Coal, 148 tons,	\$702 49
Oil, 556 gallons,	365 15
Charcoal, 174 bushels,	15 66
Lampwicks and wicking,	3 94
	<hr/>
	\$1,087 24

Miscellaneous include

Expenses of pursuing and returning elopers, .	\$32 82
Travelling expenses on business for institution, .	31 90
Buffalo robes, &c.,	16 75
Iron safe and copying press,	115 15
Forest trees about the institution,	43 37
Expenses returning boys to friends, &c.,	24 44
Ropes and pulleys,	7 20
Advertising and newspapers,	10 00
Bees, house and hives, &c.,	22 00
Coffins and expenses of funerals,	25 25
	<hr/>
	\$328 88

LYMAN FUND.

December 1st, 1849,	\$ 0,000 00	
Do. do. balance of in-		
come on hand,		\$622 51
June 27th, 1850, received of exec-		
utors of Mr. Lyman,	25,000 00	
August 16th, 1850, received of ex-		
ecutors of Mr. Lyman,	25,000 00	
	<hr/>	
	\$70,000 00	
Received dividends and interest,		2,043 14
		<hr/>
		\$2,665 65
The fund is credited with amounts paid for bust		
of Mr. Lyman, books and printing, melodeon		
for chapel, water gauge, barometer, hydrome-		
ter, &c.,		
	\$780 11	
With interest for money borrowed		
for general account,		
	35 25	
Amount paid general account,	1,000 00	
	<hr/>	
		1,815 36
		<hr/>
Balance of income,		\$850 29

EORGE DENNY.

Westborough, Nov. 30, 1850.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Trustees of the State Reform School, the Superintendent presents his Third Annual Report.

GENTLEMEN:—We present you with a report of our labors and operations during the year just closed. You will see by the accompanying tables, that the school has been much crowded during the entire year; having at no time less than three hundred boys, (the largest number the buildings were designed to accommodate,) and most of the time a much greater number.

Many applications for the admission of boys have been rejected, for want of proper accommodations.

The following tables have been carefully prepared, to present in a convenient form many important facts.

TABLE 1.

Showing the number of Admissions and general state of the Institution, from Dec. 1st, 1849, to Nov. 30th, 1850.

Boys in the house at the commencement of the year Dec. 1st, 1849,	310
Committed since,	106
Returned—1 by master, 1 escaped last year, returned since,	2
Number in the house during the year,	418
Discharged,	94
Remaining, Nov. 30th, 1850,	324

One hundred and eight boys have been received during the year, and probably as many more would have been committed, had there been room to accommodate them. Notwithstanding four hundred and eighteen boys have enjoyed the benefits of the institution during the year, we hear of a number of boys between the ages of nine and sixteen, who have recently been imprisoned in the county prisons of Massachusetts.

TABLE 2.

Admissions from each County, the past year and previously.

Counties.	1850.	Previously.	Total.
Barnstable, - - - -	-	-	-
Bristol, - - - -	14	31	45
Berkshire, - - - -	3	6	9
Dukes, - - - -	-	-	-
Essex, - - - -	26	66	92
Franklin, - - - -	-	1	1
Hampden, - - - -	12	2	14
Hampshire, - - - -	-	3	3
Middlesex, - - - -	20	68	88
Nantucket, - - - -	1	-	1
Norfolk, - - - -	6	19	25
Plymouth, - - - -	-	2	2
Suffolk, - - - -	12	112	124
Worcester, - - - -	12	24	36
	106	334	440

Of those admitted the present year, the greatest number is from Essex County. Twelve only have been received from Suffolk County, as most of the boys, who have been before the Boston courts, have been committed to the House of Reformation for Juvenile Offenders, at South Boston; but we have received more from that county, since that institution has been filled.

TABLE 3.

Showing the Admissions, Discharges, and the Average Number of Boys, each month in the year.

Months.	Admissions.	Discharges.	Average No.
December, 1849, - - -	3	13	304
January, 1850, - - -	1	-	300
February, " - - -	3	1	302.28
March, " - - -	12	10	303.05
April, " - - -	13	11	304.2
May, " - - -	8	5	306.8
June, " - - -	12	13	307.8
July, " - - -	9	8	308.6
August, " - - -	4	1	311.2
September, " - - -	14	11	314.8
October, " - - -	16	10	319.6
November, " - - -	13	11	324.8
	108	94	
Yearly average, - - -	-	-	309

TABLE 4.

Showing the disposal of those discharged, from December 1st, 1849, to November 30th, 1850.

Discharged on expiration of sentence, - - - -	17
“ by Board of Trustees, - - - -	18
“ by order of Supreme Judicial Court, - - - -	2
Remanded and rejected as improper subjects, - - - -	7
Indented to Boot and Shoemakers, - - - -	9
“ “ Carpenters, - - - -	2
“ “ Farmers, - - - -	20
“ “ Coopers, - - - -	2
“ “ Printer, - - - -	1
“ “ Shoe Shavemaker, - - - -	1
“ “ Barber, - - - -	1
“ “ Trunkmaker, - - - -	2
“ “ Gardening, - - - -	1
“ “ Sawmaker, - - - -	1
“ “ Sailmaker, - - - -	1
“ “ Attend School, - - - -	2
	—
Delivered to Court of Common Pleas, - - - -	43
Escaped, - - - -	2
Died, - - - -	1
	—
Total, - - - -	4
	—
	94

Seventeen have been discharged on expiration of sentence. Some of the commitments in the first year after the institution was opened, were for short periods, which are now expiring, leaving the boys the only alternative of returning to their parents, in many cases to be again subjected to influences that brought them here.

We are confident in the assertion that, in most cases, the most desirable manner of dismissal from the institution, is by indenture; as by this means, the lad is placed under the steady parental control of a master, and at the same time, is removed from all former bad associations.

Only *one* has been returned by his master for bad conduct, of the whole number apprenticed since the opening of the institution.

Of the forty-three apprenticed during the past year, twenty were to *farmers*.

The farmers' life is beset with fewer temptations than most mechanical employments, as they are usually more retired from large villages.

TABLE 5.

Showing by what authority committed.

	1850.	Previously.	Total.
By Court of Common Pleas, - -	9	35	44
" Boston Municipal Court, - -	10	39	49
" Boston Police Court, - -	1	73	74
" Lawrence Police Court, - -	1	10	11
" Lynn " " - -	2	9	11
" Lowell " " - -	6	27	33
" Newburyport " " - -	3	16	19
" New Bedford " " - -	10	18	28
" Pittsfield " " - -	3	-	3
" Salem " " - -	15	26	41
" Worcester " " - -	4	6	10
" Taunton " " - -	1	-	1
" Justices of Peace in various towns,	27	75	102
" Trial Justices, - - -	14	-	14
Total, - - -	106	334	440

TABLE 6.

Offences of all committed during the year ending November 30th, 1850, and previously.

	1850.	Previously.	Total.
For Larceny, - - -	41	119	160
" Stubbornness, - - -	47	110	157
" Idle and disorderly, - -	3	20	23
" Vagrancy, - - -	6	23	29
" Shop-breaking and stealing, -	3	17	20
" House-breaking and stealing, -	-	4	4
" Burglary, - - -	1	1	2
" Shop-breaking with intent to steal,	-	5	5
" Pilfering, - - -	2	7	9
" Having obscene books and prints for circulation, - - -	-	2	2
" Common drunkard, - - -	-	2	2
" Malicious mischief, - - -	1	13	14
" Assault, - - -	1	2	3
" Trespass, - - -	-	4	4
" Arson, - - -	-	2	2
" Runaway, - - -	1	3	4
	106	334	440

Two hundred have been committed for thefts and petty pilferings; one hundred and fifty-seven for being stubborn and disobedient; fifty-two for being idle and disorderly, and for vagrancy; and thirty-one for various other offences.

As the inquiry is frequently made, "what constitutes the offence of *stubbornness*?" we propose to answer it by presenting some extracts from the record of the boys' previous history.

No. — "Has spent most of his time idling about the streets in company with other bad boys, and has been addicted to the use of intoxicating liquors and tobacco; has often been intoxicated, has indulged in lying, profanity, pilfering, and sleeping out."

No. — "Has been once imprisoned in the county prison for stubbornness; twice in the common jail for larceny; has spent much of his time in idleness, has been very profane, and much given to lying, and sleeping out."

No. — "Was sent to the House of Correction about a year since, for stubbornness. For four or five years has been in the habit of pilfering money and small articles from his mother; has been notoriously profane, having formed the habit of lying, and associating with a bad class of boys, often returning to his mother late at night."

No. — "Is a notorious truant from school, and home; addicted to the habits of chewing tobacco and profanity. He has associated with the worst class of boys; ran away from home many times, often staying away several days, and even months at a time, sleeping nights in stables, or any place that might afford him shelter. At two different times he was absent three months."

No. — "Has often taken money from his mother's purse, and when sent by his father to collect bills, has sometimes spent the money with bad associates, often remaining with them over night."

No. — "His father died about ten years since. He has often taken money from his mother, and treated her in the most insulting and shameful manner; throwing billets of wood at her, and threatening her life, so that she has been obliged to call in the neighbors and the watchman."

No. — "Was once fined for throwing stones at a market man; is a notorious pilferer, having taken money and small

articles too numerous to mention; also addicted to the habits of chewing and smoking tobacco, lying, profanity, and Sabbath breaking."

The above extracts are specimens of what may be found in our records. Sad as the picture is, yet such is the spectacle beheld in all similar institutions, and should lead to greater effort to ascertain and arrest the leading causes to such a state (of parental insubordination,) as evidently now exists in many families.

The causes leading to crime among the young are more fully investigated in another part of this report, to which your attention is directed.

TABLE 7.

Showing the length of the time of Sentences, the past year and previously.

	1850.	Previously.	Total.
During their minority, - -	95	247	342
Until twenty years old, - -	-	5	5
" nineteen " " - -	1	-	1
" eighteen " " - -	1	-	1
" fourteen " " - -	-	1	1
For one year, - -	-	18	18
" one year and six months, - -	-	3	3
" two years, - -	1	19	20
" three years, - -	2	22	24
" four years, - -	1	3	4
" four years and eight months, - -	1	-	1
" five years, - -	-	8	8
" five years, ten days, - -	1	-	1
" six years, - -	1	5	6
" eight years, - -	1	2	3
" ten years, - -	1	1	2
	106	334	440

TABLE 8.

Showing the duration of Alternative Sentence, for the past year and previously.

	1850.	Previously.	Total.
During minority, - - -	2	-	2
For four years, - - -	1	2	3
“ three years, - - -	6	2	8
“ three years and six months, -	1	-	1
“ two years, - - -	2	24	26
“ one year and six months, -	-	6	6
“ one year, - - -	6	30	36
“ nine months, - - -	-	1	1
“ eight months, - - -	1	2	3
“ six months, - - -	39	75	114
“ five months, - - -	-	1	1
“ four months, - - -	1	11	12
“ three months, - - -	19	46	65
“ two months, - - -	15	87	102
“ one month, - - -	5	14	19
“ ninety days, - - -	4	-	4
“ sixty days, - - -	-	11	11
“ thirty days, - - -	2	8	10
“ one day, - - -	1	6	7
“ one month in work-house, -	1	2	3
“ thirty days in county jail, -	-	6	6
Total, - - -	106	334	440

TABLE 9.

The Nativity of all committed during the past year, and previously.

	1850.	Previously.	Total.	
Born in Ireland, - -	7	42	49	
" " France, - -	-	1	1	
" " England, - -	2	3	5	
" " Scotland, - -	-	3	3	
" " Canada, - -	-	5	5	
" " Nova Scotia, - -	-	3	3	
" " New Brunswick, - -	2	9	11	
Foreigners, - -	-	-	-	77
Born in Massachusetts, -	71	220	291	
" " New Hampshire, -	8	9	17	
" " Vermont, - -	1	8	9	
" " Maine, - -	5	12	17	
" " Connecticut, - -	4	3	7	
" " Rhode Island, - -	2	6	8	
" " Pennsylvania, - -	-	3	3	
" " New York, - -	2	7	9	
" " New Jersey, - -	1	-	1	
" " Maryland, - -	1	-	1	
" " United States, - -	-	-	-	363
Total, - -	-	-	-	440

Of the three hundred and sixty-three born in the United States, one hundred and eight were of Irish parentage, five of English, and one, each, of German, Scotch, French, and Danish, the remaining two hundred and forty-seven were of American parents.

TABLE 10.

Ages of Boys when committed.

					1850.	Previously.	Total.
7 years of age,	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
8 do. do.	-	-	-	-	1	10	11
9 do. do.	-	-	-	-	4	17	21
10 do. do.	-	-	-	-	8	27	35
11 do. do.	-	-	-	-	9	37	46
12 do. do.	-	-	-	-	17	49	66
13 do. do.	-	-	-	-	14	37	51
14 do. do.	-	-	-	-	25	68	93
15 do. do.	-	-	-	-	28	72	100
16 do. do.	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
17 do. do.	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
18 do. do.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
19 do. do.	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Unknown,	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Total,	-	-	-	-	106	334	440
Average age about 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ years.							

More than one hundred boys have again gone into society, to enter the arena of life, which will give trial to the moral influence which we may hope has been exerted upon them here.

By the favorable accounts so far received from many of those who have been apprenticed, we are much encouraged in pursuing the work that has been commenced.

When we contrast their moral, intellectual and physical condition, with their state when admitted, and receive assurance through the letters from those who have left, that they look back with gratitude to the State Reform School, for the benefits it has conferred upon them, we rejoice with them that Massachusetts has so nobly set the example for her sister states, in providing an asylum for her delinquent children.

It is gratifying to see so many states and cities following in the work. Besides the old institutions at New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, the State of New York has established a Home of Refuge at Rochester; New Jersey has established one in the vicinity of Princeton; and Maine another, near Portland. Similar institutions have also been founded by the cities of Cincinnati, Baltimore and Providence.

That at Cincinnati, established at an expense of one hundred

and fifty thousand dollars, commenced receiving boys last September.

The Providence Reform School, by a recent act of the legislature, is made available, to the whole state, and has recently commenced operation.

That at Rochester was opened about a year since ; the others are erecting the necessary buildings.

This institution has been much crowded during the whole year ; yet a large number of applications for admission have been necessarily rejected. Great caution has been exercised in receiving none that could be elsewhere properly cared for.

The experience of another year has not led us to make any important change in the general management of the institution. For a more detailed account of our plans of operation, I refer you to my last report. Our government is *firm* and *decisive*, but *persuasive*, *parental*, and social in its character, leading the boys as much as possible, to forget the past, and look forward with hope to the future.

Many have been addicted to the indulgence of ill temper, revenge, &c. ; others have been left in idleness, and under little or no parental restraint. Such must be made to feel the moral wrong of uncontrolled passions, the importance of industry, and the necessity of restraint and self control, before much hope can be entertained of lasting reform.

The lad of confirmed evil habits, needs much sympathy and encouragement, to lead him to put forth the exertion necessary to overcome the force of those habits.

In this work, we are under renewed obligations to George Denny, Esq., for his valuable aid and kind regard for the welfare of the boys under our care. The boys of the first grade, consisting of one hundred and twenty-four, were much gratified by a visit and generous collation at his residence on the Fourth of July ; and, on other like occasions we have been much indebted to his disinterested benevolence.

CAUSES OF CRIME.

There is among children much want of respect towards their superiors ; a want of parental control, and an increase of public places of amusement of low character, doubtless have their influence in increasing juvenile crime.

On this subject, I take the liberty to quote an extract from the correspondence of the late Theodore Lyman, to whose bounty this institution is so largely indebted.

"I have seen enough of the poor and desolate, to be long ago convinced, that many of the persons that go to jails, houses of correction, and state prisons, are originally led there in consequence of the ignorance, or the poverty, or the neglect, or the dissolute habits of parents, or from the want of proper guardians in their youth;—in other words, from being exposed in some way to a temptation, that they had either not knowledge enough, or resolution enough to resist.

"How then shall we diminish crime? The process seems to be, at least a double one. First, to diminish as much as possible in a community, temptation to vice; and, second, to withdraw, as soon as possible, from a course of vice, those that are unable to resist the temptation to it. The first object can only be accomplished by improving the general condition of society, and for the second, we must look, I think, in a considerable degree, to institutions like the school at Westborough."

The following facts have been gathered, to throw some light upon the causes of crime, as developed in the commitments to the Reform School.

Whole number received, 440.	
169	have lost their father.
108	" " mother.
138	" fathers who have no steady employment.
194	" " " are intemperate.
57	" mothers who are intemperate.
170	" fathers who use profane language.
45	" mothers " " "
145	" fathers who were Sabbath-breakers.
71	" mothers " " "
72	" fathers, mothers, brothers or sisters, who have been, or are imprisoned.
350	were either idle previous to admission, or had no steady employment.
227	have been over-indulged.
225	" " neglected,

367	have been truants from school.
297	“ “ Sabbath-breakers.
394	“ “ addicted to lying.
230	“ used tobacco.
356	“ “ profane language.
259	“ “ obscene “
303	“ attended the theatre and similar places of amusement.
261	“ slept out.
169	“ drank ardent spirits,—most of them to intoxication.
172	“ been previously arrested : 88 once, 33 twice, 16 three times, 10 four times, 25 five times and over.
116	“ been in prisons, or schools of reform.

The above table is based on acknowledgments of the boys themselves ; and every effort has been used to make it reliable. Where doubt has existed with regard to any point, it has not been taken into the account ; and as it is known from undoubted sources, that full statements were not given in some instances, it is believed that could the whole truth be known, the figures in the table would be augmented.

First, the life into which some have been led, must be attributed to orphanage. Without father or mother, or both, they have been thrown upon the cold mercies of the world, and have fallen. This is not true, however, of a large majority of those who are named in the table, as having lost one or both parents.

A second and prolific source of crime, is parental inefficiency. A large number of fathers, it will be seen, depend upon mere chance for a livelihood. If they obtain any employment, it is well ; if not, their families must suffer the consequences. Children, pinched with hunger and cold, are driven into the streets, or dens of vice, to earn a few cents to buy bread, or to beg from door to door. They become acquainted with those who are of their own class or a worse one, the habits and practices named in the table are easily acquired, and a life of crime is begun. Begging and stealing, the consequence of parental neglect, were the chief means of subsistence with not a few before entering this institution.

The same result has been reached through *over-indulgence*. Uncontrolled at *home*, the wholesome restraints of school be-

came *irksome* to them. *Truancy* succeeded. Ranging the streets or fields through the week, created a disrelish for the observance of the Sabbath. Thus, these destructive habits were added to each other until the worst consequences ensued. Boys suffered to spend their evenings in the streets, for a while, perhaps, engaged in innocent amusement, but among their companions, were found those who were accustomed to vicious practises of which they did not long remain in ignorance; the hour of their return home gradually grew later, as they frequented the theatre and similar places of resort, until finding the parental door locked, through inadvertence or design, and half prompted by inclination to make their bed with their vagrant associates, they spent their nights where chance might place them. The answer of one of the boys, to the question, "How much have you slept out at night?" was, "More or less, for six years;" that of another, "Four or five years, here and there." Others gave replies like the following,— "Most of the time for three years;" "Two years;" "A good many nights;" "Two or three hundred nights." It was found that they sometimes slept in houses of disrepute, where nameless practices had been acquired, and where a love for ardent spirits had been induced, which ended in habitual intoxication;—sometimes in barns and sheds, and upon the wharves, and not unfrequently in the watchhouse.

Parental inefficiency will, in a great measure, account for another item in the table. Boys have spent their time about the streets, idle, or in selling shavings, matches, papers, and obscene prints, or at work in bowling alleys and bar rooms, in most cases, because their parents have permitted it. This practice cannot be too strongly condemned. One boy, when asked his employment, replied that "he had worked at *knick-knacking*;" a somewhat original term, it must be admitted, but which, perhaps, expresses as well as any, the engagements of the three hundred and fifty who were not steadily employed, or mostly idle.

A third, and more revolting source of juvenile crime, is the viciousness of parents. A large number of boys have known their parents to be Sabbath-breakers; have heard them use profane and improper language, and seen them intoxicated. Some are acquainted with the fact that one or both of their parents,

have been imprisoned for crime. But, pernicious as the bad example of a parent is, some have not only indulged in the worst habits and crimes themselves, but taught their children to do the same. Boys stated that their love of strong drink originated in its having been given to them by their parents. Some were sent out to steal, and whipped if they returned unsuccessful.

With these facts before us, it is not surprising that many of the inmates of this institution, have so often been arrested and imprisoned. One boy distinctly remembered having been before courts of justice thirty two times; a fact which a knowledge of the life his parents have led fully explains.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

The school is divided into two departments. The lower department is taught by Mr. M. O. Ayres, assisted by Mr. A. W. Gore; the upper department by Mr. J. C. Meade, assisted by Mr. F. S. Thompson.

The pupils are divided into four classes. The first and second, compose the lower department; each of which is subdivided into four divisions.

The third and fourth classes compose the upper, or more advanced department; each of which is divided as in the lower.

Class first, contains beginners in reading and spelling, and in the first principles of arithmetic, geography and writing.

Class second, includes those who can read easy lessons. Besides reading and spelling, they study arithmetic and geography.

Class third, comprises those who can read in books generally;—who attend to reading, spelling, geography and practical arithmetic.

Class fourth. These are more advanced, and pursue, in addition to the branches of the third class, history of the United States and grammar.

The number now in the school is 323.

Of these spell easy words,	.	.	.	.	10
“ read easy lessons,	.	.	.	.	46
“ “ books generally,	.	.	.	.	185
“ “ well,	.	.	.	.	82

Have studied Arithmetic, 300.

"	"	Colburn's First Lessons,	100
"	"	through simple rules of practical arithmetic,	94
"	"	through Reduction,	26
"	"	" Fractions,	25
"	"	" Rule of Three, or Proportion,	23
"	"	" Profit and Loss,	26
"	"	" Cube Root,	6
			— 300
			==

Have studied Geography,	229
" " History of U. S. A.	17
" " Grammar,	28

236 can write on paper, and many of them with much neatness and freedom; and the remainder are forming and writing letters on slates.

We believe that a commendable degree of improvement has prevailed among the boys, and a manifest desire to learn. Many who were unable to read when received, can now read with tolerable fluency, and have considerable knowledge of arithmetic, geography and writing. Such facts show the faithfulness of the teachers.

LABOR.

Average employment during the year.

At work in the Shoe Shop,	100
“ “ Sewing and Knitting Shop,	85
“ “ Farming and gardening	50
“ “ Laundry,	22
“ “ Kitchen, cooking and baking,	21
Scrubbing and general work about the house,	24
Miscellaneous,	7
	<hr/>
	309

We have experienced much difficulty in providing suitable employment for the boys in the shoe shop, which has rendered the labor of supervision in that department much greater, and with less income, than it would have been with more regular employment.

Many more have labored in the agricultural department in this than in the previous year, and we are confident that labor in the open air does much to secure health, happiness and contentment among the members of our family.

A lad feels much less the restraint thrown around him, while he is engaged in the *open fields* with his companions, and his overseer, or instructor, laboring at his side. He becomes interested in the planting, cultivating and harvesting of the crops, and the various methods adopted by the intelligent agriculturist. Some become much interested in the management of the oxen and horses; others in guiding successfully the plow, or in the care of the poultry yard, or piggery; and often seek with much avidity, knowledge of the best means of conducting those operations.

These things are small, in themselves considered, but when they are taken in connection with his former life, when, instead of feeling pride in some useful employment, he sought his highest glory in the most profane oath, or daring exploits in vice, they become matters of interest as showing the change in his habits.

The introduction of agricultural employment in the management of institutions for the reform of juvenile delinquents, I believe has never been attempted to any great extent until the establishment of this. From our experience here, we are confident that no such institution should be established without liberal provision for *labor in the open fields*.

Many persons have seriously objected to this, for the reason that such boys cannot be controlled and prevented from eloping without extraordinary restraint.

The experiment here for two years past, may do much to remove this objection.

The following statements will show what has been accomplished in the shops the past year:—

SHOE SHOP.

Pairs of Shoes made for the institution,	.	.	730
“ “ repaired, “	.	.	1,184
“ Boots closed,	.	.	1,148
“ Shoes “	.	.	64,230
“ Boot backs stitched,	.	.	4,350

Amount received for shoes sold,	\$831 94
“ “ closing boots and shoes,	2,369 34
“ of work done for institution,	965 93
“ of stock on hand,	93 87
	<hr/>
	\$4,261 08
Amount of shoes and stock on hand at commencement of year,	\$960 05
Amount expended for stock during the year,	699 97
Amount expended for tools,	116 37
Wages and board of overseer,	500 00
	<hr/>
	2,276 39
	<hr/>
Balance in favor of shop,	\$1,984 69
	<hr/>

SEWING AND KNITTING SHOP.

The following statement of the amount of work done in this shop, is gathered from the matron's monthly reports:—

Made 784 Jackets,	Made 27 Bedticks,
“ 1302 pairs Pants,	“ 599 Pillow cases,
“ 456 “ Suspenders,	“ 53 Bed spreads,
“ 508 “ Socks,	“ 140 Towels,
“ 275 Aprons,	“ 34 Pillows,
“ 577 Handkerchiefs,	“ 494 pairs Socks run,
“ 869 Shirts,	“ 71 Vests,
“ 465 Hats bound,	“ 148 Collars,
“ 5 Blankets,	“ 77 pairs Mittens,
“ 654 Sheets,	
Whole number of articles made during the year,	7044
Repaired Jackets,	3006
“ pairs Pants,	4298
“ “ Socks,	4470
“ Shirts,	6426
	<hr/>
Whole number repaired during the year,	18,200

FARM.

The Report of the Steward and Farmer, is herewith presented. It should be remarked, that what is termed days' work of

boys, are days of *six hours*, and that many boys are sent *out* to labor more for its effect upon their minds and health, than for the amount of work they accomplish.

To the Superintendent of the State Reform School, the Steward and Farmer respectfully presents his Second Annual Report.

SIR,—Since the last report, there has been performed by the boys who have been employed upon the farm, 14,508½ days' labor, of which 916 have been done on grounds around the institution, not immediately connected with farming operations; 13,592½ days have been in farming and permanent improvements on the farm, 3269 of which are as follows:—In making of roads, 937; in digging round large rocks for blasting, 111; in making walks, 557; in grading around the buildings, 487½; removing gravel from reservoir, 48; covering water-pipe from windmill to house, 146½; conveying water to barn, 193½; digging and filling trench, and drawing stone for 193 rods of wall, 688½; the balance, 10,323½ days, have been occupied in ordinary farming operations, from which has been raised as follows, viz.:—

60 tons	English Hay, at \$12 00,	.	.	\$720 00
21 "	Meadow "	6 00,	.	126 00
20 "	Corn Fodder,	5 00,	.	100 00
5 "	Oat Straw,	6 00,	.	30 00
383 bushels	Potatoes,	60,	.	229 80
800 "	Corn,	75,	.	600 00
109 "	Oats,	42,	.	42 00
953 "	Carrots,	25,	.	238 25
17 "	Rye,	1 00,	.	17 00
16 "	dry white Beans, 1 75,	.	.	28 00
798 "	Swedish Turnips,	20,	.	159 50
313 "	English "	20,	.	62 60
2200	Pumpkins,	02,	.	44 00
4329 pounds	Pork,	06½,	.	281 38
2849 "	Beef,	05,	.	142 45
205 "	Veal,	06,	.	12 30
642½ "	Butter,	20,	.	128 50
564	Cabbages,	04,	.	22 56
5182 gallons	Milk,	11,	.	570 02

353 boxes Strawberries,	\$ 20,	.	.	\$70 60
68 barrels Apples,	1 50,	.	.	102 00
5 bushels Pears,	1 00,	.	.	5 00
2½ " Quinces,	1 50,	.	.	3 75
15 " Peaches,	1 25,	.	.	18 75
43½ cords of Wood,	4 50,	.	.	195 75
Garden Vegetables, Squashes, &c.,	.	.	.	25 00
				<hr/>
				\$3975 21
				<hr/>

The live stock, now on the farm, consists of

4 Oxen,	
1 pair of Steers, 4 years old.	
16 Cows,	
3 Heifers, 3 years old.	
1 " 2 " "	
6 " 1 " "	
2 Steers, 1 " "	
8 Calves, from 5 to 9 months old.	
1 Ayrshire Bull, 5 years old.	
1 North Devon do., 2 years old.	
1 half Ayrshire do., 1 year old.	
3 Horses.	
38 Swine.	
Estimated at	\$1,970 00

Having charged the farm with wages and board of the men employed, as also all other expenses, as they occur from time to time, and credited all the produce which has not been expended on the same, as also all labor performed on such improvements as are not included in usual farming operations, if we deduct all the labor of men and teams which has been done on permanent improvements, a balance will remain, as a compensation for the labor of the boys, (charging no interest on farm) of \$1308 28. The boys, I am happy to say, in my opinion, have much improved in their work, and are more industrious; they appear also to have greatly improved in their general deportment.

All which is humbly submitted.

JAS. LEACH.

Westborough, Nov. 30, 1850.

HEALTH.

The following is the Physician's Report:—

To the Superintendent of the State Reform School.

SIR,—In reviewing the medical history of this institution the past year, the same general facts in relation to disease and its causes have prevailed as heretofore.

The prominent causes of disease in this institution, have been, thus far, mostly atmospherical.

Inflammation of the lungs prevailed during the whole of spring and the latter part of winter, and terminated fatally in three cases. The protracted wet weather of last spring operated very unfavorably with patients during convalescence, in making in-door confinement necessary when the open air and sunlight were most needed. Two of these cases showed indications of consumption in its premonitory stage before the acute attack came on. In the third case, both lungs and the heart's sack, or envelope, were found involved in inflammation when first examined for treatment. This boy died suddenly. The fourth fatal case died of chronic disease of the brain. There were peculiarities in the progress of this case, which a post mortem examination only could have fully developed.

With the exception of two cases of fever, one of typhoid in August, and one of lung fever in September, there has been no disease of much importance since May. The institution has been nearly exempt from the common abdominal disorders of summer and autumn.

Yours respectfully,

H. H. RISING,

Physician of State Reform School.

Westborough, Nov. 30th, 1850.

RELIGIOUS EXERCISES AND SABBATH SCHOOL.

The Report of the Chaplain is herewith submitted :—

*To Wm. R. LINCOLN, Superintendent of the State Reform School,
the Chaplain respectfully submits his Annual Report.*

The duty of giving moral and religious instruction to the youth of our care, was discharged by the late Chaplain, Rev. S. D. P. Stone, to January 11th, when his official connection with this institution was dissolved. For a period of three months following, the general religious exercises were under the more immediate direction of the Superintendent, and the chapel service was conducted by such supplies as were most accessible.

My own connection with the institution began on the 11th of April; a day fresh in my memory, apart from the consideration that it returned our annual State Fast. A few days before, one of the boys had been borne to his final resting place: another died on that day, in the interim of the chapel service, and it was thought that still another was beyond the reach of human aid. So it proved; and it is a matter of profound gratitude to Him in whose hands our lives are, that these deaths, together with but one more, which occurred a few weeks later, are the only instances of mortality with which the institution has been visited since it was first opened; and that the blessing of health has been largely vouchsafed to us.

It has been my endeavor to fulfil the trust committed to me with fidelity; others must determine with what success.

Morning and evening devotions have been observed daily.

Our Sabbath School is in a flourishing and prosperous condition, and is under the efficient superintendence of Mr. M. O. Ayers, one of the principal teachers in the institution. It is divided into twenty-four classes, supplied with teachers mostly, from the religious congregations in the immediate vicinity; and the devotion with which they have prosecuted the good work which they kindly volunteered to perform, is worthy of all praise. Their book of instruction is the Bible; and one lesson is studied by all, with the exception of a few who cannot read. Selections are made from the historical Scriptures of the Old Testa-

ment, which are read in the class, and made the subject of familiar conversation; and portions of the New Testament are committed to memory and recited. Once a quarter, a general exercise takes the place of the ordinary one. The first of the kind occurred on the first Saturday of the present quarter. Transcripts of the class-books, showing the conduct and progress of each scholar, were presented by the teachers of the several classes the week previous. From these a general summary was made, and such facts selected as were deemed of interest, and the whole embodied in a general report, which was read in the presence of the school. It was found that the lessons had been studied with commendable diligence, and that in searching the record of divine truth, both teachers and scholars had partaken of its spirit, and become bound by a mutual tie. The present quarter was commenced with increased interest; and we cannot but believe that this invaluable auxiliary in the reformation of the youth committed to our care, is acting upon their hearts with an irresistible though noiseless power.

Religious worship has been conducted in the chapel "on the Sabbath, and on all other days set apart for religious observance," without interruption. It has consisted of two services; and it cannot be doubted that the regulation which requires the attendance of the officers and all connected with the institution generally, upon this as well as upon the daily devotional exercises, is a most salutary one, when we consider how much these youth are influenced by example. The presence of others, who reside in the immediate vicinity and who have usually attended our chapel service, has also had a tendency to inspire self-respect and a regard for the sacredness of the Sabbath and its engagements. The exercises, however, have been conducted with special reference to the boys. The most practical truths of divine revelation have been selected as themes of discourse, and the effort made to illustrate and enforce them in a familiar and practical manner. The attention with which these exercises have been listened to has been very marked; and although this must be attributed in part to the salutary discipline of the institution, we may indulge the belief that a real interest has generally been felt. Questions have frequently been asked which fully justify such a conviction, and which, could they be detailed here, with the conversation to which they

led, would show that we have abundant cause for encouragement and hope, from the employment of this divinely appointed means for subduing and sanctifying the heart. The instructions of the Sabbath have also been frequently made the topic of conversation among the boys while engaged at their work upon the farm. One, perhaps, mentioned an illustration which interested him; another alluded to an incident which was related; and thus the conversation continued until it became general, and the whole discourse was spread out as a map before them all. Not long since, a diary, belonging to one of the boys, was accidentally met with, and examined for the purpose of ascertaining whether it contained anything which related to the services of the Sabbath. It was found, that while no notice was taken of the transactions of some of the week days, the Sabbath had duly received its entry of the place of the text,—often accompanied by the words, and sometimes by the leading thoughts of the discourse, together with an appropriate remark. On one page, an anecdote, which had been employed as an illustration, was related with such singular fidelity, and its bearing upon the subject stated with such discrimination, as to leave no doubt of a just appreciation of the truth presented. An examination of other diaries was afterwards made with similar results. Additional considerations might be presented, which go to show the existence of that interest, at least, which can only be awakened through the hearing ear. May that gift of heaven, the understanding heart be granted.

I have enjoyed every facility for associating with the boys, and some of my pleasantest hours have been spent in this way. Mingling with them upon the farm, in the workshops and school rooms, or wherever they might be engaged, I have entered into familiar conversation with them upon such topics as the time and circumstances suggested. Apart from this, I have met them all, alone, once, and some of them often, for serious, personal intercourse. Although these interviews have been pleasant at all times, and in all places, I have found the hour and place of retiring peculiarly suited to them. If ever a boy's past life comes up in review, it is when he lies down to sleep. It is then that his *home*, "be it ever so humble," rises in imagination before him. It is then, too, that the slighted councils of a father; the resistless eloquence of a mother's tears over his

waywardness, and the thousand little incidents which have imperceptibly bound him to brothers and sisters, come crowding thick and fast upon his mind; and he half regards himself again at the family fireside, imploring the forgiveness he desires. Perhaps his father, or mother, or both, by their bad example and instruction, have been the cause of his downfall; they may still be dragging out an existence of infamy and wretchedness; or both, together with brothers and sisters, may have long since been chilled by the breath of the destroyer; and he is compelled to say, as some have said, with tearful eye and heaving heart, when interrogated,—“*I have no friends.*” These, and similar thoughts, impress him with all the loneliness of his condition; and he resolves to continue the life of crime he has begun, or nobly retrieve the past, as he is goaded to desperation or melted into penitence. At such a time, “a word fitly spoken,” is emphatically, “like apples of gold in pictures of silver.” Nor are such occasions rare. Indeed, I doubt whether there is a youthful mind in this institution, that is not at times pervaded with thoughts like these I have described. Such are my convictions, from my brief observation and experience. In my interviews with the boys, therefore, I have first of all endeavored to acquaint myself with their history, and the predominant state of their minds and their hearts. I have sought to awaken in them just views of the relation which they sustain to the institution and its guardians and officers, and the true object of their having been placed here, rather than within the forbidding and impassable walls of a prison. I have endeavored to set before them their duty to their friends, to themselves, and to each other;—above all, to impress them with a sense of their obligations to God; and to awaken corresponding emotions of dependance and gratitude; and I am happy to say that I have always been heard with respectful attention, and frequently asked that such interviews might be repeated.

From the facts thus briefly and imperfectly presented, we may confidently trust that the institution is fulfilling, in some degree, the design of our noble Commonwealth in its erection, and the expectations of its early and munificent patron. Looking at the past life of its youthful inmates, the heart sickens and the courage droops. Here, “truth is stranger than fiction.” That many have led lives of crime, in their own language,

“ever since they could remember,” and that nearly all have for years been addicted to the habits and vices indicated in the table showing the causes of crime,—sometimes paying the penalty of their offences in jails and prisons, in company with the most abandoned criminals,—sometimes fugitives from justice, in distant cities and towns,—making the earth their bed, and theft their means of subsistence,—is, indeed, almost incredible. Were we unacquainted with the existence of the reality, we might doubt the fidelity of the picture. It is the actual or presumptive knowledge of these facts, probably, which has led to the questions so frequently asked: “Have these boys any moral sensibility?” “Do they possess ordinary intelligence?” “Do you indulge hopes of their thorough reformation?” To those who thus anxiously inquire, “Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?” we may encouragingly answer, “Come and see.”

The first of these inquiries has already been answered in part. To the moral and religious instruction given, the attention is generally secured. To the question whether it produces an impression, it may be briefly replied, that the difficulty of effecting the desired change of life consists not so much in producing impressions, as in rendering them permanent. They, who to-day may be melted into tears at the remembrance of their past lives, or because they have committed a fault, and, so far as can be judged, feel that they will never again do wrong, may to-morrow be guilty of a flagrant misdemeanor. When they would do good, evil is present with them. Accustomed to the wrong, the restraints which the right imposes, are regarded with difficulty in the hour of temptation, and hence their fall. They are much like a ship at sea without anchors; secure when the sky is clear and the waters still, but dashed upon the reefs, or plunged into the quicksands, when exposed to the fury of the tempest. Time and labor only, with the blessing of heaven, can produce that moral power which is sufficient to meet every exigency.

With regard to the intelligence of the boys, it may be said, with safety, that they will bear comparison with an equal number in the common walks of life. No obstacle to their reformation arises here, therefore. It is true that many enter the institution very ignorant, but it is because their attendance at school

has been slight. Few of them remain ignorant, and some acquire knowledge as the arid earth drinks in the grateful showers of heaven. An extremely ignorant and unpromising boy was committed about fourteen months since. The unfavorable domestic influences by which he had always been surrounded, and the viciousness of his past life, together with the habitual recklessness both had induced, inspired but faint expectations of his reformation; but he soon applied himself to his books with avidity, is now among the most advanced boys in his English studies, and has been pursuing the study of Latin three months, with a perseverance and success that indicates no common superiority of mind. The ferocity of the lion is changed to the mildness of the lamb. He is a model of diligence and integrity; equally desirous to know and to perform the right for the right's own sake, and is respected and beloved alike by the officers and the boys. His eye moistens, as he often wonders that he has so long cherished such a false estimate of life, and desires to know how the past may be atoned for; and we may breathe the prayer, that the fond hopes which the present inspire may be realized in the future.

The thorough reformation of these youth, then, is not a visionary scheme, which we may desire, but not expect to see realized. There are, indeed, some,—though the thought be a sad one,—whose conduct does not authorize us to expect a harvest from the good seed which we are endeavoring to sow, but for whom we may nevertheless labor in hope. This number, however, is comparatively small. We may believe that by far the larger number, penitent for the past and determined for the future, will be restored to the bosom of society, and cherished with a peculiar care, because once lost, but now found. But such a result can be reached only by well directed and patient effort in their behalf. The extremes of cold distrust and morbid sympathy must be avoided. Just views of their relation to society must be instilled into their minds. The wrong which they have committed must not be palliated. Those whose misfortune it has been to be deprived of proper parental instruction, must be made to know that they have been very wicked as well as very unfortunate. They must be taught to dwell upon the past, only as it shall serve as a warning for the future; and that the future involves their weal or their woe. They must be made to feel that there are no barriers to their respectability

and usefulness as citizens,—if, in the good providence of God, they shall reach the years of manhood,—which they may not overcome; and they must be urged, by every rational consideration, to run the noble race, and realize the glorious destiny of immortal beings. The trust is a fearful one, on whomsoever it may fall. In its successful fulfilment, “the wisdom which cometh from above” will be needed. There must be a heart to feel, and a hand to labor. Great tenderness must be combined with great decision. Perseverance, that intangible but mighty and real existence, to its utmost strength, must be exerted. Happy is the man who can look upon years spent in the successful prosecution of such a work, and fortunate the youth committed to his care. Posterity will rise up to call him blessed, and the memory of his name can never be forgotten.

P. LINCOLN CUSHING.

STATE REFORM SCHOOL,
Westborough, Nov. 30, 1850. }

LIBRARY AND PERIODICALS.

The library has been much increased by the appropriation ordered by your board, and the kindness of benevolent individuals.

We have received books from the following sources, for which we tender our grateful acknowledgments:—

From Geo. Merriam, Esq., of Springfield, three copies of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, twenty-five copies of Robert Dawson, and twenty-five copies of Sloth and Thrift, with a request that one be presented to each boy on leaving the school; public documents from Hon. John Davis, and books for the library from Amos Lawrence, Esq., Mr. Chas. Kendall, Mr. C. P. Pierce, and Mr. Chas. Wait, of Boston, and from friends of the school in Cambridge; one set Parley's Library, from the publishers; also, books and papers from John Ball, Esq., of Salem, and Edward Packard, Esq., of Philadelphia.

We have regularly received the American Traveller, Olive Branch, Puritan Recorder, Youth's Companion, Scholar's Penny Gazette, (while it was published,) Christian Citizen, Massachusetts Spy, Cataract, National Ægis, Lowell American, Cambridge Chronicle, Pennsylvania Journal of Prison Discipline, and Littell's Living Age.

Before closing this report, I desire to renew the expression of my thanks to the Honorable Board of Trustees for their continued kindness, and for the valuable aid they have so freely bestowed.

I should do injustice to my feelings, did I not bear testimony to the faithfulness and self-denial of my associates in the management of the institution, who have so generally sympathized with me, and so faithfully labored for the prosperity of our youthful charge.

I would not close without acknowledging our obligations to Him to whom all praise is due, for the good here achieved, and for all the blessings enjoyed throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. R. LINCOLN, *Superintendent.*

STATE REFORM SCHOOL,
Westborough, Nov. 30, 1850. }

A P P E N D I X .

Extracts from Letters from Masters, relative to Boys who have been apprenticed.

July 21, 1850.

MR. LINCOLN :

Dear Sir,—By the request of William, I avail myself of this opportunity to pen you a few lines, informing you that he is a very good boy. He attends school regularly ; also, meeting and the Sabbath School.

Respectfully,

N.

November 1, 1850.

Dear Sir,—M. F. has enjoyed good health while he has lived with me. His character has been good, and he has been a good boy. M. has worked on the farm this summer, and will attend school next winter. I like him *very well*, and think he likes his place.

Yours, &c.,

D.

November 11, 1850.

Dear Sir,—It gives me much pleasure to be able to inform you that L. W., apprenticed to me in March last, has given good satisfaction thus far. He is very industrious, and exhibits marks of order and cleanliness which speak well for the Reform School.

He is a pleasant and agreeable boy in the family, and I see nothing why he may not grow up to be a good and useful citizen.

Very respectfully yours,

L.

November 16, 1850.

MR. LINCOLN :

Dear Sir,—I take this opportunity to inform you that John is well, and appears satisfied with his place ; and I take pleasure in saying that I am satisfied with him, and that I think he has received great benefit from you and the institution over which you preside. John says, that if he had not been arrested in his career, he should have been in the State's Prison before this time. I would say, that he has instilled in him the right principles, as regards morals and religion.

Yours with respect,

G.

November 16, 1850.

Dear Sir,—I have just received yours of yesterday. It reminds me of a promise (which was not forgotten) to write you respecting William. He has enjoyed uninterrupted health. He appears to be a still, obedient, and quiet boy. He has, perhaps, less energy than some other boys of his age ; owing, perhaps, in part to his having been employed in sedentary occupation. He has been attending school this week, and will attend three months or more. He has attended meeting and Sabbath School every Sabbath, until the last, when he was detained at home.

Yours respectfully,

A.

November 20, 1850.

Dear Sir,—I think Richard is a smart, capable boy, and bids fair for future usefulness. He has attended meeting and Sabbath School regularly, ever since he has been with me. I think he is quite industrious, and is very fond of reading. He will probably attend the village school about three months in a year.

Yours with respect,

R.

November 18, 1850.

MR. LINCOLN :

Dear Sir,—The health of John has been good ; his conduct very gentlemanly,—all that I could ask or even expect of him.

He will attend school ten weeks. As for his future prospects, I have not seen, nor do I see anything, at present, why they are not promising.

One thing I can say of him, and that is, I have not seen any indications of lying since his stay with me. If he continues as he has commenced, he will deserve much praise.

Most respectfully yours,

H.

This boy had mingled, for a long time, in the most licentious and low company. He was committed for a high offence.

11th month, 28th day, 1850.

Dear Friend,—Agreeably to request, I write to inform you respecting W. M. His health is good. His conduct has generally been good. He has attended meeting regularly since under my care, and expresses a willingness to do so. As regards his future prospects, I think I may say, they are favorable. It is probable he will attend school about ten weeks in the year.

With respect,

W.

November, 1850.

MR. LINCOLN :

Sir,—I write concerning John, the boy apprenticed to me one year ago last October. He is well, continues to be faithful, is becoming in his deportment, and is, in short, a *model boy*.

Yours respectfully,

F.

November, 1850.

MR. LINCOLN :

Dear Sir,—I take this opportunity to inform you that William and Silas, the two boys living with me, are so far doing well. They are very pleasant members of my family, appear interested in all my business, and I have confidence in them, as in all respects trustworthy boys.

Yours respectfully,

B.

*Abstracts from Letters from Boys.**September 10, 1850.*

Dear Sir,—I now take this opportunity to let you know that I am well and attending school. I have not forgotten the good advice you gave me, for I do not know what I would have done, if I had not been in the institution. If I am now in the road for to make a good man, and be honor to my friends, I am indebted to you, sir.

I am well, and getting along first-rate. Tell the boys that they must employ their time, for I wish I had employed my time better than I did, for education is better than money.

I send my love to all the boys and teachers; tell them that I am in the right road.

From your affectionate scholar,

C.

August 24, 1850.

Dear Sir,—I cannot delay writing to you any longer, to express my sincere thanks to you, and through you to the officers of the institution, for your kindness to me while a member of the S. R. S. It will never be forgotten, and I trust that the means there used for my benefit may prove salutary.

I am pleasantly situated, preparing for future usefulness as a teacher.

Please remember me to all the boys, and urge upon them to pay close attention to the instructions there given, and to strive to do as they shall wish they had done, when they appear before the Judge of all the earth.

Please write, &c.

K.

November 10, 1850.

MR. LINCOLN :

Sir,—I received yours, dated the 29th. It gave me great satisfaction to hear from you. I go on very happily in my business, and my master, seeing my diligence, puts me forward and encourages me in such a manner, that I have great delight in it. Although it has been a great while since I wrote to you, yet I have not forgotten the kindness which I received while in

your care. I feel it my duty to write to you, to thank you for all you have done for me. I was very glad to hear of the good behavior on the part of boys who have been apprenticed lately; that they have raised themselves to the post of *honor* and set a good example for the rest. The letter which you gave me when I left the school, I have now. I often read its contents. I will always try to follow its contents.

In comparing my present situation with my former life in Boston, I can say, that I enjoy myself far better now than at that time. I have all the privileges I could desire; much more than I expected. I like my place very much.

Yours with much respect,

D.

November 2, 1850.

Dear Sir,—It was with much pleasure I received your kind letter of the 30th. It brought at once to my recollection those never to be forgotten hours, when I have sat and listened to your voice, administering advice and instruction to those around you. In your letter, you requested me to read and preserve the letter of advice which you gave me when I left the institution. I will now tell you that I have often read it, and intend to preserve it as long as I can. To follow its advice I will always endeavor, as I have seen that, without so doing, life is a burden.

I believe I am getting along very well at my work, and hope to continue so. The school here begins in about a week, when I expect to have the privilege of seeing life at a country school.

I remain yours,

M.

November 30, 1850.

My dear Friend,—After having taken my leave of you on one pleasant afternoon in October, and under the care of Mr. G., I went aboard the cars, and, stopping at various stations along the way, arrived at Northampton about 9 o'clock, P. M. It being so late, I could not have a view of that delightful village. I, soon after this, reached my new home. It being rather late, I soon retired to rest. I awoke in the morning, a stranger, but soon became acquainted with the family at my *new home*, and

found them very agreeable. It being the season for the farmer to gather in his crops, I soon began to assist Mr. G. I have been husking corn, digging potatoes, picking up apples, gathering nuts, &c. I spend these long evenings in reading, writing, and the like. I expect to attend school this winter, and have become acquainted with several of the boys that are to become my schoolmates. I often think of the family I left at the Reform School. Give my love to all of them. The farmers in W. often ask Mr. G. if there are any more good boys at the State Reform School.

I think, if it had not been for the Reform School, I might have wandered far in the path of vice, and most certain I should not have found that home I now have got.

Please give my respects to all of the officers.

This from your young friend,

B.

